DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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ADENAUER'S STORM TROOPS

Former S. S. officers are hard at work in West Germany, drawing up lists of people who should be "put out of the way" in case of a new war.

These new nazi storm troops receive the financial aid and support of the West German Government, and are controlled from the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation near Paris.

These facts came to light when local police in Oldenburg, British Zone, searched the house of Dieter von Glahn, a leading member of the pro-fascist "Federation of German Youth".

There they discovered a card index; three of the cards from the hundred in the index are reproduced on this page. The cards gave the names and addresses of over 100 inhabitants of the district — Socialists, Communists, trade-unionists and members of the peace movement.

And S. S. Colonel Anders, who had ordered the preparation of the card index, admitted quite frankly that the men and women on the list were due to be wiped out on "X-day" — the day on which World War III was scheduled to break out.

The police discovered this card-index of candidates for liquidation, and then, suddenly and mysteriously, ceased their investigations.

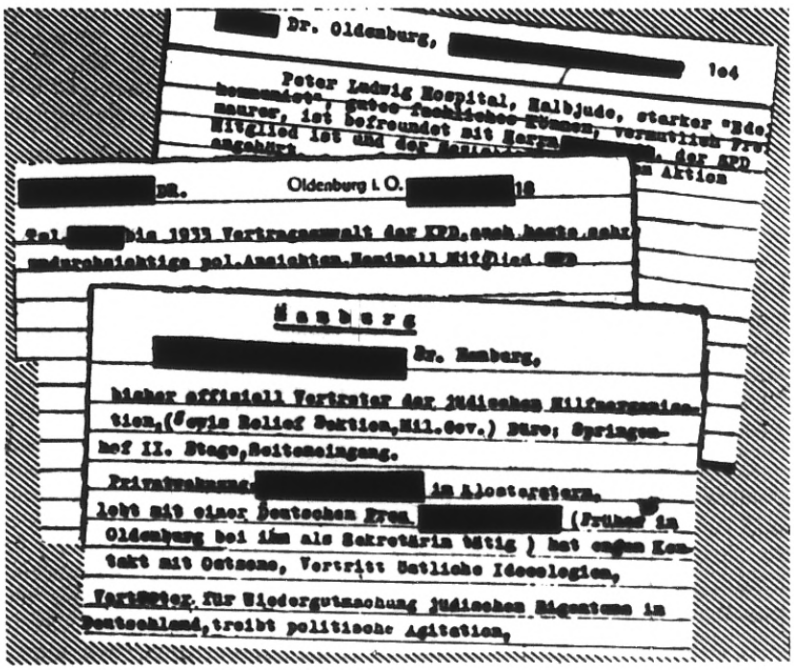
A West German journalist went to work on what clues he could discover, and here is what he unearthed.

In November 1950 a leading official of the youth organisation of Chancellor Adenauer's Christian Democratic Union got into touch with Rudolf Rohs, chairman of the organisation in Brunswick, British Zone. Rohs was asked to give the names of two or three former officers who were capable of undertaking a secret task for the West German Government.

Rohs suggested Heinz Peter Anders, 36 year old former S. S. Colonel. Anders had not only been a high-ranking S. S. officer, but had also been an instructor in the

(cont. on p. 2)

SAMPLES FROM GANGSTER CARD INDEX


[redacted] Dr. Oldenburg, [redacted] 104

Peter Ludwig Hospital, Halbjude, starker "Rde[redacted]
[redacted] Oldenburg i. O. [redacted] 18

Hamberg

[redacted] Dr. Hamburg,

bisher offiziell Vertreter der jüdischen Hilfsorganisation,(Jewish Relief Section,Mil.Gov.) Büro: Springenhof II. Stage,Seiteneingang.

Privatwohnung: [redacted] im Klosterstern,

lebt mit einer Deutschen Frau [redacted] (Frühe[redacted] in Oldenburg bei ihm als Sekretärin tätig) hat engen Kontakt mit Ostzone, Vertritt östliche Ideologien,

Vertreter für Wiedergutmachung jüdischen Eigentums in Deutschland,treibt politische Agitation,

(Names and addresses have been deleted for the protection of the persons concerned)

[redacted] Dr, Oldenburg, [redacted] 104
Peter Ludwig Hospital, half-Jew, convinced "intellectual Communist", good professional knowledge, presumably free-mason, friendly with Herr [redacted] who is a member of the Social Democratic Party and belongs to the Social Democratic Action.

[redacted] Dr, Oldenburg, [redacted] 18
Telephone: [redacted]. Before 1933 regular legal aide of the Communist Party of Germany, even today very opaque political opinions. Nominal member of Social Democratic Party.

[redacted] Hamburg.
to date official representative of the Jewish aid organisation (Jewish Relief Section, Mil. Gov.) Office: Springenhof, 2nd Storey, side entrance.
Private residence: [redacted] Klosterstern, lives together with a German woman [redacted] (formerly his secretary in Oldenburg), has close contact with the East Zone, supports eastern ideologies.
Representative for the restitution of Jewish property in Germany, carries on political agitation.

(Cont. from p. 1.)

S. S. officers school in Prague during the war.

Ex-Colonel Anders, who lives at 15 Martin Strasse, Wiesbaden, American Zone, went to work with a will to build up a terrorist group in Lower Saxony. Since 1945 he had been obliged to live by his wits, and had served terms of imprisonment for fraud, black-marketeering, and the illegal possession of arms.

Soon he had assembled a staff of former Hitler Youth members and nazi officers. One of their main tasks was to coordinate the various terrorist organisations which had grown up amongst old disgruntled nazis, and to subject them to the control of Ander's central organisation. This has its headquarters at the "Rhein Hotel" in Remagen, a few miles from Bonn, and it appears in public under the harmless code name of "Society for the Study of Social Relations".

New Gestapo

Real organiser of the terrorist organisation was the "Office for the Protection of the Constitution" with headquarters in Cologne. This office is in fact the new Gestapo of West German.

Constant visitors at ex-Colonel Anders house were Herr "Schmidt" and Herr "Bienke" of the "Office for the Protection of the Constitution", who used a car with the registration number FR 412-082.

It is interesting to note in this connection that when the Munich magazine "Revue" printed some of the above facts in a recent issue, it received an angry letter from the "Office for the Protection of the Constitution" threatening that strong action would be taken if it continued in such "unconstitutional" activity.

Interviewed at his Wiesbaden home, terrorist Anders frankly admitted that his organisation was financed and controlled by West German government circles, acting on the instructions of a central office situated outside Germany.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!

.... The facts show how right the German Democratic Republic has been to take special security measures along the demarcation line through Germany; and how necessary it has been to establish and train efficient police forces to protect the new and democratic Germany which is built in the east.

The disclosures show, too, how ruthlessly the American circles which are driving towards a new war are ready to act in West Germany against anybody who might faintly be suspected of "Un-Americanism".

The disclosures will undoubtedly lead to a strengthening of the unity of the working class and all people opposed to war in West Germany.

But the lessons are not confined to Germany. Are you sure that the American occupation authorities in your country have not established a similar organisation?

Is your name on the liquidation list?

(From an editorial in GERMAN REPORT, October 15th 1952)

"I know from my official trips that this centre is in France, not far from Paris, but I cannot say any more" he stated. The Headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is situated just outside Paris.

One of the main terrorist organisations which ex-Colonel Anders had to "co-ordinate" was the right-wing "Federation of German Youth" which came into the news in October 1952 when it was revealed that the U. S. authorities in West Germany had been arming and training members of the organisation as special "liquidation squads".

On October 8th 1952 Georg Zinn the Social Democratic Prime Minister of Hessen Province, American Zone, announced that police had discovered the existence of this murder organisation and had made a number of arrests, but that the arrested men, mainly former S. S. officers, had been released on the instructions of the Federal authorities, who stated that the case did not fall under German jurisdiction.

Arms and Bombs

The organisation had trained its members in the use of arms and explosives. "In addition", said Prime Minister Zinn, "the intelligence branch of the group had drawn up lists of persons regarded as politically untrustworthy in the case of military conflict with the Soviet Union, and opponents of the Bonn Treaty."

"According to the confession made by the head of this intelligence branch" Prime Minister Zinn said, "these persons were to be 'put out of the way' on 'X-day'. He said that he and other leading members of the organisation understood this to mean extermination, by armed force if necessary.

"Material seized from this intelligence branch includes 15 card-index entries on Communists and some 80 cards on leading members of the Social Democratic Party. These cards include a detailed description of the persons concerned, with intimate biographical details.

"The money and the weapons were supplied to the organisation by an American who superintended the training courses, and who, in turn, was supplied with carbon copies of the card-index entries."

West German Police Continue Terror Arrests

The wave of arrests of progressives and members of peace organisations in West Germany continues unabated. At the end of March police in many parts of West German, acting on instructions from Bonn, raided local offices of the "German-Soviet Friendship Society" and the "Democratic Womens League", arresting leading members of the organisations and seizing large quantities of books, pamphlets and office files.

In Muelheim, British Zone, a force of 100 police was mobilised to arrest 62 year old Peter Kries, member of the West German Unemployed Committee.

TOP-RANK NAZIS MAY BE RELEASED

"Warning Signal for British and French People"

Seven high-ranking nazis arrested by the British authorities in West Germany in January, and accused of plotting to seize power, have been handed over to the West German authorities.

There were reports from many sources that the British step was only the prelude to the release of the men, and the London "Times" stated on March 27th: "It is believed that the evidence may not warrant charges against all of them."

One of the men arrested, Karl Kaufmann, former Gauleiter of Hamburg, had already been released when this number of GERMAN REPORT went to press.

The other men concerned were Dr. Werner Naumann, who was named nazi Propaganda Minister in Hitler's will; Gustav Scheel, Gauleiter of Salzburg, and named in Hitler's will as Minister of Culture; Dr. Heinrich Haselmeyer, author of nazi works on sterilisation; Heinz Seipen, nazi propaganda expert; Paul Zimmermann, S. S. General in the concentration camp department; and Dr. Karl Scharping, nazi radio propaganda expert.

The "Neues Deutschland", newspaper of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party, made the following comment on April 3rd on the handing over the members of the "Naumann Group" to the West German authorities:

"The British authorities have remained silent as to the reasons which led them to arrest these men, and also why they have now handed them over. They wanted to delude public opinion into believing that they were 'fighting facism'. The real reason was quite different.

"The Naumann group is not confined to a handful of former leading nazis, but is closely connected with influential circles in West German industry, particularly heavy industry in the Rhineland and Westphalia.

"The heavy industrialists of West Germany, who include Hitler's military economic experts, believe that with the coming into force of the Bonn Treaty and the establishment of a West German mercenary army the time has come to prepare for the creation of a fascist dictatorship.

"A large proportion of the West German heavy industrialists are forming their own independent imperialist plans of expansion.

"These West German imperialists want to use former leading nazis who had close political and economic connections with the Arab and South American countries during the Hitler era.

"The arrest by the British authorities of members of the Naumann Group had nothing to do with 'fighting fascism'. It was simply a sign of the deepening contradictions between the imperialist states.

"Britain feels that her interests in the Arab countries and in South America are directly imperiled by the lust for expansion of the West German imperialists.

"France also feels itself endangered, not only in regard to its colonial possessions but also because of West German imperialist plans with regard to hegemony within the Schuman Plan, and demands for Alsace-Lorraine.

"The case of the Naumann group must be an alarm signal for all patriots in West Germany. They are a warning signal also for the masses of the people in Britain and France. This case shows once again that the American imperialists are ready to make use of the most flagrant war criminals to put into effect their war plans in Europe, since they know that the masses of the people in Germany, Britain, France and other countries are not ready to drop their demand for national independence and to accept voluntarily the yoke of fascist dictatorship."

MOTHER & BABY IN JAIL

By the Editor

On other pages of this issue, as in nearly every number of GERMAN REPORT, we bring news of new nazi murder plots. Once again the news from West Germany says that police have stumbled on a conspiracy threatening peace and security, and once again the investigations have been stopped, obviously on superior orders, and the guilty men are allowed to go free.

At the same time the reports on the arrests of anti-fascists become more and more frequent. A correspondent in West Germany has sent me an account of the arrest of Hilde Benthin, a young mother in Hamburg, who was dragged off to prison on March 12th 1953, together with her four-weeks-old son.

At midday on this date a car drew up in front of the house at 68 Tarpenbeck Strasse, Hamburg, and two burly policemen and a policewoman got out. Hilde Benthien, with her baby son on her arm, opened the door.

"You are arrested on the orders of the Federal Attorney", said one of the policemen, and without more ado Frau Benthien and her baby, who had begun to cry bitterly, were pushed into the waiting car.

Hilde Benthien's mother has received one letter from her daughter since she was arrested.

"Baby Klaus cries all the time", Hilde wrote, "he doesn't get the proper food, and the rough sheets on the prison bed have made him quite sore."

Hilde Benthin's parents know very well what their daughter is going through, for both of them were imprisoned by Hitler because they fought for peace and a better world.

What was Frau Benthin's crime? Her parents do not know what she is accused of, but it is easy to guess. Opposition to war and active work for peace is "crime" enough for the West German authorities.

(As this number of GERMAN REPORT was being made ready for the press the news came in that Hilde Benthien had been released, and was back at home with her baby once again.

The authorities were forced to release her because of the great pressure of public protest. On the same day came news of the arrest of dozens of other young progressives on various trumped up charges in different parts of West Germany.)

PROFILE

HERMANN ENGELMANN — FARMER WITH A FUTURE

One of the peasants who has played a prominent part in the cooperative movement in the village of Grapzow in Mecklenburg is Hermann Engelmann, today chairman of the "Ernst Thaelmann" Production Cooperative. How did he come to hold this post? Here, in his own words, is the story of his life:

"I was born in Borgwall in 1898 on the estate of Count von Kartlow-Kartlow. My father worked 14 hours a day for the Count as agricultural labourer, but he read the Socialist newspaper and often had rows with the administrator about his wages.

Red Armbands

"When I was nine I had to work all day in the fields for 50 pfennigs during harvest time, and the estate inspector often hit us.

"In 1916 I was called up to the army. During the revolution in 1918 I was stationed in Koenigsberg, in the railway station.

"When revolutionary sailors stormed the station we were ordered to fire on them, but we refused, fraternised with the sailors, and put on red armbands.

"I went home, expecting to find that a new life had begun, but it turned out that on the estate everything was the same as before, from Count Kartlow-Kartlow down to the gatekeeper.

"I left my parents and my village and began to roam through Mecklenburg, doing odd jobs. Everywhere I saw the terrible poverty, and realised that we had made a lot of mistakes in our 'revolution' in 1918. I got to know a Berlin worker, who knew a lot about Rosa Luxemburg, Karl Liebknecht and Lenin, and I have never forgotten what he told me.

General Strike

"When the reactionary Kapp Putsch took place in 1920, the workers went out on general strike throughout Germany, including the little town of Gnoien where I was then working.

"Reactionary Free Corps commanded by Kartlow-Kartlow and Erhardt and a regiment of grenadiers marched on Gnoien, but we were united—Social Democrats, Independent Socialists, Communists and non-party workers. We had the same rifles and the same motto: Keep Kapp's bandits out of Gnoien. And under heavy artillery fire we held the White troops back for six days.

"In 1922 when I was working in Utzedel near Berlin, I joined the Communist Party. There were six of us in the village. We had to meet in secret, but despite all difficulties we were able to organise strikes of agricultural workers for the eight hour day.

"When Hitler came to power it got very tough, but up until 1938 or 1939 we were able to work illegally. The 'Red Aid' organisation for helping the families of political prisoners still functioned, and we paid our regular subscriptions, and sometimes met in Altentreptow.

"Up until 1945 I was cow-hand on the Radsack estate in Grapzow.

"At the end of the war I immediately organised the Communist Party group in Grapzow — twelve men strong. The first thing we did was to go to the Radsack estate and divide up the land.

Twenty Acres

"I got twenty acres of land of my own, and things began to look quite different. When I left my fields in the evening I cleaned the mud off my boots, because it was my mud. I started with three head of cattle and a horse, and last year I had six cattles and five horses. It was hard work, from early in the morning until late at night, and in addition I got elected chairman of the Peasants' Mutual Aid Association.

"Then, last July, the 2nd Party Conference of the Socialist Unity Party proposed the formation of production cooperatives. We wanted to form one too, and called a meeting. It wasn't a success.

"A week later, after we had studied the question properly, and could explain it to the others, we called another meeting. Most of the peasants said they wanted to think it over.

"Then, at a third meeting, eleven of the peasants got up and said they wanted to join, and on August 23rd 1952 we constituted the cooperative.

"The first thing we did was to get together a brigade to do the threshing jointly. We made the chaff really fly, and were finished first. That made a big impression, and a lot of peasants wanted us to thresh their corn for them.

"For the root crops we organised two brigades, and that went even better. Not a single potato or turnip was left in the ground when the bad weather came.

"Things really began to hum, then. Five or six peasants came to visit me every day to discuss entering the cooperative, and today we have 140 members. They are divided up into three field brigades and three stable brigades.

"At the first conference of the Production Cooperatives in Berlin we got a film projector as a present from the Government, and we have sent Farmer Schroeder to attend a course, so that he can show us films.

"My children? Two of them are married here in Grapzow, and they are naturally members of the cooperative. My third daughter is a nurse in Greifswald, and my youngest is at the Free German Youth Training College."

Eleven Nations in Cycle Race

Riders from eleven countries, including Britain, will participate in the Prague—Berlin—Warsaw cycle race which starts on May 1st. Competitors will come from Britain, Norway, Finland, Trieste, Italy, Austria, Rumania, Hungary, German Democratic Republic, Denmark and Czechoslovakia. It is hoped that riders from Holland and Belgium will also be able to compete in the race.

French Girls See East Germany

Six members of the youth organisation "Young Girls of France" have arrived in Berlin to tour the German Democratic Republic. "Our visit is a step towards real friendship between our peoples, and a guarantee that they will never again make war on each other", Helene Delcucina, leader of the delegation stated.

33 Months Ahead of Target

Two of the workers of the nationally owned Dresden Transformer Works have fulfilled their output plan for the Five Year Plan 33 months ahead of schedule.

They are Fritz Lohse and his young colleague Gerhard Seiler, an active member of the Free German Youth. By organising their work properly, and thus devoting less time and effort to each separate motion the two workers were able to do the work originally scheduled for the 60 months of the Five Year Plan in the short space of only 27 months.

"HUMANITY'S LOWEST DEGRADATION"

A Reminder for Churchill and Eisenhower

Eight years ago, on April 11th 1945, American troops reached the concentration camp of Buchenwald, near Weimar in Thuringia.

Nine days later, while the corpses of the nazi victims in the camp had not yet all been buried, a British Parliamentary Commission, composed of Conservatives, Labour men, Liberals and Independents, visited the camp.

Their visit was preceded by the following announcement, made in the House of Commons on April 19th by Prime Minister Winston Churchill:

"I have this morning received an informal message from General Eisenhower saying that the new discoveries, particularly at Weimar, far surpass anything previously exposed. He invites me to send a body of Members of Parliament at once to his Headquarters in order that they may themselves have ocular and first-hand proof of these atrocities."

Here are some extracts from the report of this parliamentary delegation, published as Cmd. 6626 by His Majesty's Stationary Office in April 1945.

"Although the work of cleaning the camp had gone on busily for over a week before our visit... our immediate and continuing impression was of intense general squalor.

"... This hut was one of those now used as transit hospitals for some of the worse cases of malnutrition. Many were unable to speak; they lay in a semi-coma, or following us with their eyes.

"Others spoke freely, displaying sores and severe scars and bruises which could have been caused by kicks and blows. All of them were in a state of extreme emaciation.

"We were told by the U. S. authorities that, since their arrival, the number of deaths had been reduced from about 100 per day to 35 on the day before our visit.

"The usual clothing was a ragged shirt, vest or cotton jacket, beneath which protruded thighs no thicker than normal wrists.

"The medical members of our delegation expressed the opinion that a percentage of them could not be expected to survive, even with the treatment they were now receiving, and that a larger percentage, though they might survive, would probably suffer sickness and disablement for the rest of their lives.

"There had been similar overcrowding in Block 61, which had been used as a rough hospital, chiefly for those suffering from tuberculosis or dysentery.

"Four, five, or six men, including those who had undergone operations, had regularly to lie in each of the small shelf cubicles. Here too there were no mattresses. The excreta of the dysentery patients dripped down from tier to tier. If the living were strong enough, they pushed the dead out into the gangway.

"Despite the desperate physical condition of many of the prisoners, and their long years of incarceration, there were signs of mental as well as physical recovery. New noticeboards bore newssheets and well-designed instructional and democratic propaganda messages, mostly in German.

"In preparing this report, we have endeavoured to write with restraint and objectivity, and to avoid obtruding personal reactions or emotional comments. We would conclude, however, by stating that it is our considered and unanimous opinion, on the evidence available to us, that a policy of steady starvation and inhuman brutality was carried out at Buchenwald for a long period of time; and that such camps as this mark the lowest point of degradation to which humanity has yet descended. The memory of what we saw and heard at Buchenwald will haunt us ineffaceably for many years."

(Signed) Lord Stanhope
Lord Addison
Tom Wickham (then Conservative M. P. for Taunton)
A.R.G. Southby (then Conservative M. P. for Epsom)
Mavis Tate (then Conservative M. P.)
Ness Edwards (Labour M. P. Caerphilly)
S. Sydney Silverman (Labour M. P. Erdington)
Graham White (then Liberal M. P. Birkenhead East)
Henry Morris-Jones (then Liberal-National M. P. Denbigh)
Tom Driberg (Labour M. P. Maldon, then Independent)

A few of the nazi guards who ran Buchenwald were tried and executed for war crimes immediately after the war. The people responsible for establishing and running the camp, the heavy industrialists who backed Hitler, are back at the helm in West Germany.

The survivors of Buchenwald are foremost fighters in the peace movement in almost every country of Europe. In East Germany important posts in the government and administration are occupied by former Buchenwald inmates.

THE MEN WHO RULE IN WEST GERMANY

Dr. Gustav Adolf Sonnenhol joined Hitler's Storm Troops in 1930, and a year or two later he became an officer of the S.S.

During the war Dr. Sonnenhol was liaison officer between the nazi Foreign Ministry and the Reich Security Office, the central department concerned with concentration camps and the liquidation of political opponents. He proved so "reliable" in this job that in 1944 he was appointed head of "Murder Section Inland II", which administered nazi political trials.

After the war, in 1948, Sonnenhol, appearing before a legal commission investigating nazi legal activity declared: "I regard it as an honour to have belonged to the S.S."

Today Dr. Sonnenhol is head of the press section of the "Ministry for Marshall Plan Affairs" in the West German Government.

A Pole Visits East German Toyland

By J. A. Szczepanski

Have you ever heard of the town of Sonneberg in Thuringia? Probably not, and I too, until I made a trip through the German Democratic Republic, did not know much about this little town, tucked away in an out-of-the-way corner in one of the loveliest parts of Germany.

Thuringia is an unusual part of the world: home of the troubadours and the minnesingers, the country of Luther and Thomas Muenzer, the Peasant Wars and the Almanach de Gotha, Goethe and Bach; and at the same time the land of the Zeiss lens and the perlon stockings from Rudolstadt.

But if you have not seen Sonneberg, then you do not know Thuringia.

What is so particular about the town? It is the museum, an enormous toy museum, with a collection of articles turned out by the toy-making industry over a period of centuries.

The museum, which last year celebrated its 80th anniversary, has an average of 72,000 visitors every year.

One of the groups of toys represents a fair in Sonneberg, with the mountains all round and with people massed on the town square. There is great excitement — the circus is in town.

The circus performers parade on the market place, a Negro beats the drum, a bare-back rider performs her tricks on her horse, a camel and a bear arouse great interest. The group, with its figures nearly life-size, was once on exhibition at the World Fair in Brussels. It is one of Sonneberg's most representative works.

At Brussels it won a first prize, and then came back to rest in the cellars of the museum, as a specimen of bad middle-class taste and of masterly craftsmanship, all in the style of 1900.

But the museum also has works of real art. There is a wonderful "Gulliver in Lilliput" made in the last century, a strange magician performing his tricks, and a grandmother at the spinning wheel: all the work of a great native artist. There is another large group "Oasis in the Desert", an aquarium full of fish, and a minute singing bird of paradise, a fragile and wonderful toy, a laboriously made miniature work of art.

And then the modern toys — tractors and cars, a primitive train dated 1846, and next to it an electric railway with points and crossings, great cranes and steel works.

One could spend hours just describing the exhibits, the dolls, the animals, and the mechanical toys ranging from the simplest carts to the most complicated machines. There are exhibits made of wood, wax, papier mâché, cloth, paper, china, tin, straw, bread-crumbs and an almost endless variety of materials. There are articles made of glass, ranging from rough mediaeval glass to the most modern glass statuary.

There is a library on toy-making tools, a collection of ancient and mediaeval toys, and an enormously interesting collection of toys from all parts of the world, toys of Negroes, of American Indians, of Eskimos, toys which had belonged to peasant children, to middle-class children, and the children of aristocrats.

The realm of enchantment continues. We see the Christmas tree decorations, marionettes, roundabouts, Pied Pipers, clowns, elephants with movable trunks, miniature monkeys on swings. Baby dolls say "Mama" and "Papa", dogs bark, cats mew, cocks crow and nightingales sing, just as in nature. In some cases the secret of how the different sounds are produced has been lost, for the old craftsmen guarded their secrets jealously. In this department there are talking books too, a form of toy long extinct.

As we pass on to the next room I note that one of our group has been left behind. It is Andrzej Panufnik, the composer, who is pulling again and again at one of the strings... "To understand a poet, you have to go to poets' land..."

The motto over the entrance to the museum building states: "The land of toys is a land of peace."

A special section of the museum is the pedagogic section, which shows the role played by toys in the development of a child, in the training of juvenile artistic taste and moral values. The development of the theory and practice in education is shown from Froebel to Makarenko. A whole room is devoted to Makarenko's educational methods.

A charming little girl wearing the blue scarf of the Young Pioneer organisation shyly presents me with a doll larger than herself. "For the orphan of one the Polish prisoners in Buchenwald" she says — for Buchenwald too lay in Thuringia.

This was a fine concluding chord.

(From "Przekroj", Warsaw)

FRENCH & GERMAN YOUTH FOR PEACE

French and German youth organisations have issued a joint protest against the Bonn and Paris Treaties, and called for the withdrawal of the American occupation troops from both France and West Germany.

The joint appeal, published in Berlin, Bonn and Paris on March 27th, was signed by the National Committee of the Republican Youth of France, the National Committee of the Young Girls of France, the Central Office of the Free German Youth of West Germany, and the Central Council of the Free German Youth.

It stated in part:

"The French and German youth, allied with all patriots, will be strong enough to defend their life and their future against the warmongers.

"Our young people will never take up weapons against the great Soviet Union. They must never take up weapons against each other.

"The lying propaganda about the creation of a so-called European Union is only intended to damp down the national feelings of the youth, and thus to deliver them up to American domination.

"Only a free, independent France and a peace-loving, democratic reunited Germany can guarantee close friendship and good neighbourliness between our nations.

"We call for the summoning of a four power conference for the peaceful solution of the German problem. Let us fight together for the conclusion of a peace treaty with a reunited Germany. A Germany without nazis and without militarism is the best guarantee for the security of France and all peace-loving peoples.

"Let us fight together for the withdrawal of the American troops of occupation from our homelands.

"Long live the fraternal solidarity of the French and German youth in the struggle against the war treaties of Bonn and Paris.

"Long live peace."

Terror Gang Plans Jail Break

A West Berlin terrorist organisation financed by the American authorities recently attempted to organise a mass jail break of saboteurs serving sentences in East German prisons, the Ministry of the Interior of the German Democratic Republic announced on March 27th.

The organisation forged a large quantity of documents which purported to come from official quarters, ordering the release of the prisoners. The forgery was detected however, and none of the criminals were released.

War Banner

West German war veterans organised in the reactionary "Stahlheim" (Steel Helmet) organisation may in future parade behind the black-white-red war banner of Imperial Germany, decorated with a large iron cross, West German Minister of the Interior Robert Lehr announced on March 27th.

The black-white-red flag has been the rallying point for the right wing in Germany since 1919, when the government of the Weimar Republic proclaimed that Germany's flag would in future be the black-red-gold, the traditional colours of the republican movement.

Today the black-red-gold flag is the official flag both of the German Democratic Republic and of West Germany.

Democratic
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Soviets Urge Big Four Talks

General V. I. Chuikov, Chairman of the Soviet Control Commission in Germany, wrote on March 28th to leaders of the "German Assembly", emphasising that the Soviet Union is fully in agreement with proposals to hold a four power conference to restore the unity of Germany.

The letter was sent in reply to a letter which the "German Assembly" had addressed to the British, French and American High Commissioners, and the Chairman of the Soviet Control Commission, requesting the summoning of such a conference.

The "German Assembly" is a broad movement in West Germany of patriots of all parties who are striving to reunite Germany by peaceful means.

General Chuikov's letter, which was addressed to Joseph Wirth, Catholic and former Chancellor of the German Republic, and to Wilhelm Elfes, a former West German Lord Mayor, stated:

"As you know, in the course of the post-war years the Soviet Union has consistently made efforts to achieve a just peace treaty with Germany, and the creation of a united, independent, democratic and peace-loving German state. The request contained in your letter to the governments of the U. S. S. R., the U. S. A., Britain and France, that they should call a conference to prepare a peace treaty with Germany and the restoration of German unity, is thus in full and complete accordance with the point of view of the Soviet Government in this question."

"REFUGEES" COME HOME

Hundreds of "refugees" who fled to the "golden west" of Germany because of the propaganda which they heard on American financed radio programmes are returning to their homes and their work in the German Democratic Republic.

The East German Government has offered to accept all those who wish to return to resume their work, and increasing numbers are taking advantage of the offer, realising that they had no real reason to flee in the first place.

Here is part of the letter which Malte Zastrow, a young man from Frankenthal, near Bischofswerda in East Germany, wrote to Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl on his return.

"A few days ago I came back to the German Democratic Republic, and am now in the transit camp at Frankfurt-Oder.

"I was born in 1932. As a result of the criminal Hitlerite war I lost my home, but I and my family found a new home here in the German Democratic Republic. Thanks to the special advantages given to young people in the Republic I was able to complete my apprenticeship as a bricklayer within two years.

"However, I sometimes used to listen to the 'Radio in the American Sector' (of Berlin), and I allowed myself to be tempted by its promises.

"In West Berlin I was sent from one spy centre to another, and very thoroughly interrogated. Finally I had to sign a pledge that I would never return to the German Democratic Republic. I was taken by plane to West Germany to the infamous Sandbostel camp, where we were inspected by military doctors and classified in medical groups. We had to work all day in this camp to earn one mark. In the Republic I had been earning between 300 marks and 400 marks a month.

"From Sandbostel I was sent to Pirmasens. The mayor said that there was neither work nor accomodation for me. The local population did not want to have anything to do with us. This is understandable since there are already lots of unemployed there, and also because many of the so-called refugees are either criminals or former fascists.

"In order not to starve I went to work building military installations for the Americans at Muenchweiler near Pirmasens. The whole area is full of American war preparations, and the people themselves call it the 'powder keg'. I saw myself how the peasants of Muenchweiler were driven from their fields by the Americans to make room for military installations.

"Then I heard the announcement that people who had left the Republic because they had lost their heads could come back.

"In the meantime I had lost my job, but I put myself on very short rations to save the money for the fare back. In Berlin I reported to the People's Police. They gave me a good meal and now I am spending a few days in the transit camp at Frankfurt-Oder. Now I want to make up for my mistake by working hard, and by exposing the dirty methods used by theAmerican radio to lure people to West Germany."

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

A reader in England who has been saving cuttings from the British press about East Germany for some months has sent me a large package.

It is an excellent collection of lies and nonsense, but unfortunately the reader neglected to mark each cutting with the date and the name of the paper from which it was taken, so I cannot answer most of the stories in any detail. In addition many of the clippings are obviously many months old, and there is nothing so futile as trying to nail a western press lie months after it was told, when the very journalists who wrote it have forgotten what they said.

Big Lie

However there is one lie which I feel I must answer. It appeared in the London "Daily Herald", apparently on December 2nd 1952 (No. 11458), in an article prominently displayed on the front page.

In the midst of a lot of nonsense about the People's Police the writer, W. N. Ewer, referred to "General Heinz Hoffmann, who fought for Franco in the Spanish Civil War."

Now this is very much like saying "Monty, who fought for Rommel in North Africa".

Heinz Hoffmann, you see, fought in Spain, but very definitely not for Franco. He was Political Commissar of the Thaelmann Battalion, made up of German anti-fascists in the International Brigade.

Today he is Inspector General of the People's Police in East Germany, in charge of education and training, and I, for one, sleep sounder in my bed at night for the knowledge that proved and tested anti-nazis like him hold the key posts in the police forces.

Missing P. O. W.s

Many of the clippings which this English reader sent me concerned the alleged hundreds of thousands of German prisoners of war said to be held in the Soviet Union. Just to put the record straight, the position is this: the Soviet Union announced officially on May 4th 1950 that the repatriation of German war prisoners had been completed with the exception of 9717 serving sentences as war criminals, 3815 under investigation as suspected war criminals, and 14 hospital cases.

This announcement has been totally ignored by the West German propagandists, and they keep on adding up their fantastic figures and announcing to the world that "millions" of former German soldiers are still held prisoners in the Soviet Union.

How do they reach their figures? The method is very simple. You take the number of persons called up for service in Hitler's armies, subtract those reported dead or demobilised, and announce that the difference represents the number of prisoners.

This sum neglects of course the fact that:

a) hundreds of thousands of nazi soldiers were killed in the great battles on the eastern front and elsewhere without being identified,

b) that in the state of complete collapse which accompanied the end of the war, no proper records of demobilisation were kept,

c) that the nazi authorities began to fake casualty figures long before the end of the war, and that the western allies have continued this nazi policy by failing to notify the next-of-kin of soldiers whom they know to be dead from the nazi records which they captured.

And the reason for all this mystifications? Hundreds of thousands, or even millions of mothers and wives in West Germany are kept in suspense, eight years after the end of the war, and many of them fall easy prey to the propagandists who tell them that the "wicked Russians" are responsible for their misery, and to the suggestion that a new war is the only way of bringing their loved ones back home.

RESERVE YOUR OWN IVORY TOWER

Hundreds of industrialists and leading government officials in West Germany have in the past few weeks received circular letters posted from an address in Spain stating:

"I am in a position to arrange for you a safe hide-out in territory which lies outside the scope of present strategic planning — in the Iberian peninsula, the Balearic Islands or North Africa.

"For a small fee I can reserve you accomodation and arrange for a residence permit issued by the mayor of the locality chosen.

"If you wish to receive only spartan quarters, the annual reservation fee amounts to only 50 marks annually. If you demand comfort and a good view, then the booking fee will rise to as much as 200 marks annually."

The enterprising "tourist agent" who is sending the letters is reported to be doing smash business, particularly amongst right-wing members of the West German Parliament, who voted for the Bonn Treaty creating a new West German Wehrmacht, but who are now in fear of the consequences.

AP . . . athetic

The following item has nothing directly to do with Germany, but it is too good to miss:

"The long-term Kremlin policy has been to manipulate the Soviet standard of living in such a way that each year the ordinary citizen can feel himself at least a little better off than the previous year. In the West such changes might pass unnoticed, but to Russians accustomed to a hard lot . . ."

Associated Press message from Moscow on April 1st, announcing sweeping price reductions in the Soviet Union.

Prize Question

Now here is the question for all my readers in western countries: would it pass unnoticed in your country if the prices of fruit and vegetables were cut in half; if all meat was suddenly 15 percent cheaper; if practically all other food prices were cut between 10 percent and 20 percent, and clothing and other goods also went down sharply in price?

For that is the extent of the price cut in the Soviet Union, where, as in East Germany and the People's Democracies, wages are going up and prices are coming down.

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